

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/675,696	GILLIS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Andrew L. Sniezek	2651	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to filing of 9/30/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date 9/30/03 | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                       | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1-33 are allowed. It is noted that copending application 10/675,734 contains similar subject matter as the present application. Since this case is in condition for allowance it will be allowed as directed by M.P.E.P. 804 (1) (B).
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed method of operating a disk drive containing one or more heads having a heat source as set forth in claim 12 that includes using the heat source in a write mode of operation to generate heat to assist in writing information and to use the same heat source in a lubricant bonding mode to generate heat to thermally bond a lubricant to the magnetic disk is neither taught by nor an obvious variation of the art of record. The claimed magnetic head as set forth in claim 20 that includes a heat source that is used to thermally assist the writing of data to the disk and to generate heat to thermally bond a lubricant to the surface of the disk is neither taught by nor an obvious variation of the art of record. The claimed disk drive as set forth in claim 25 that includes a heat source of a write head that is used in a write mode of operation to thermally assist in the writing of data and in a lubricant bonding mode to generate heat to bond a lubricant to the disk is neither taught by nor an obvious variation of the art of record. The claimed magnetic head as set forth in claim 1 that includes pole pieces and a heating element such that the heating element is used to produce heat to thermally bond a lubricant to a surface of a disk is neither taught by nor an obvious variation of the art of record. The claimed method as set forth in claim 6 that provides a heating element in a magnetic head that is

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energized to thermally bond a lubricant to the disk is neither taught by nor an obvious variation of the art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

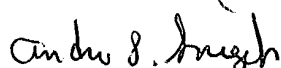
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Patel et al. is a general teaching of using a lubricant on a disk. Wei et al. teaches using thermal, chemical, polar, ultra-violet bonding techniques of a lubricant. Kasiraj et al. teaches having a heater in the write gap. Hamann et al. teaches a heating element for thermal magnetic recording. Kang et al. teaches a heater for thermally control the distal end of slider.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew L. Snizek whose telephone number is 703-308-1602. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh N Tran can be reached on 703-305-4040. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Andrew L. Sniezek  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2651

A.L.S.  
9/20/04